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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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(g) Price statistics;

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(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(j) Inventory of global statistical standards;

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(l) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(m) National quality assurance frameworks;

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5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution; a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-first session (New York, 23-26 February 2010)[1] and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2010/235. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work and a note on the state of preparation of

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 4* (E/2010/24), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision.

documentation for the session are before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its forty-second session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2011/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2011/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2011/CRP.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) World Statistics Day

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities undertaken by the statistical community to mark the first World Statistics Day, held on 20 October 2010, which celebrated the many achievements of official statistics and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism.

The Commission is invited to comment on the relevance and effectiveness of the activities and the proposed options for future celebrations of World Statistics Day.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2011/2)

(b) Programme review: gender statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ghana Statistical Service containing a programme review on gender statistics. Although the production of gender statistics has evolved over the past three and a half decades, advancements in this area have varied widely across regions and countries. The review takes stock of the achievements made in gender statistics, and assesses how national statistical systems and the international community have responded to the growing demand for gender statistics. The Commission is invited to consider ways of consolidating the often fragmented achievements and bringing coherence to this burgeoning field of statistics, drawing on both national and international experiences, and guiding national statistical offices in advancing the field.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme, which will include an account of three meetings of the Global Forum on Gender Statistics in terms of progress made and activities that are under way. It also elaborates on the production and release of *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women. The report presents the major conclusions of the meeting of the Friends of the Chair held in December 2009 in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and the proposal for the forthcoming work of the Friends of the Chair. It will be supported by the full report of the meeting presented as a background document. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ghana Statistical Service on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2011/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme (E/CN.3/2011/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women (E/CN.3/2011/5)

(c) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report provides an update on the publication and translation of the *System of National Accounts, 2008* (2008 SNA). The report also presents the Group's research agenda and its mandate and governance. In addition, the report provides information on the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2011/6)

(d) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes progress made in the programme of work of the Committee, with particular focus on activities related to the revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003. The outcome of the fifth meeting of the Committee will also be included in the report. The recommendations on the issue list for volume 1 of the revised System will be submitted to the Commission as a separate background document. The Commission is requested to review and endorse the recommendations on the issues of volume 1 of the revised System and to express its views on the progress made by the Committee in its work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2011/7)

(e) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal to adopt the international recommendations on energy statistics and describing the work carried out for their development, as well as other activities in the field of energy statistics. The recommendations were developed in accordance with the decisions of the Commission at its fortieth session, wherein the Commission suggested that the preparation of the recommendations be considered a matter of high priority. The Commission is invited to review and adopt the

recommendations and to express its views on the actions taken and proposed activities in the field of energy statistics.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics. The report contains a description of the Group's activities in 2009-2010, including summaries of its fourth and fifth meetings and its future workplan. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2011/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/9)

(f) Integrated economic statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics. The report describes the Guidelines on the principles and practices of integrated economic statistics prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session. The Commission is requested to express its views on the Guidelines.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2011/10)

(g) Short-term economic indicators

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators. The report sets out the recommendations for the monitoring of business cycles and early identification of turning points, as well as strategies for future work on improving statistical manuals and tools for this purpose. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on the recommendations for future work on short-term economic statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators (E/CN.3/2011/11)

(h) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme. The report prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme outlines the status of implementation of the 2011 round. The report describes the status of country participation and other governance aspects, the operational aspects undertaken in preparation for the 2011 data-collection and compilation activities, the status of progress at the regional and country levels, as well as the overall workplan. The Commission may wish to review the progress with respect to implementation of the 2011 round and to express its views on the workplan.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2011/12)

(i) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and the Statistics Division in the following areas: improving methods for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals; resolving differences between national and international data sets; reviewing strategies to increase capacity-building efforts for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals; and defining strategies to assist countries in improving coordination of data reporting and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. The report also describes the preparation of the yearly progress reports on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and presents an assessment of data availability for Millennium Development Goal indicators. The Commission is invited to comment on the progress made by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and its future direction of work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators (E/CN.3/2011/13)

(j) Statistics of human development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on statistics of human development. This report informs the Commission, as requested at its forty-first session, about the consultation process with the Human Development Report Office that has taken place over the past months. In particular, it relates the findings and recommendations of an expert group meeting that took place in March 2010. The Bureau report concludes with a recommendation that the Commission assess the methodological soundness and appropriateness of the data used for the Human Development Report, based on the three reports on this topic, which will be before the Commission.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development. This report, prepared by the Human Development Report Office, outlines the changes in methodology introduced in the 2010 Human Development Report, which marked the twentieth anniversary of measuring human development. The report will review the innovations, their rationale and the benefits and weaknesses of the new methodologies. The Commission may wish to review the complementary new indices, related to inequality and poverty, as well as future plans. An update on the status of preparations for the 2011 Human Development Report will be included in the report.

The Commission will also have before it the report of Brazil, Morocco and South Africa on concerns about indicators released by United Nations agencies. This report summarizes the recent debate on Member States' concerns about country-level statistical indicators released by international organizations or their country representatives. The document focuses on concerns about the choice of indicators

and their methodology on the one hand and concerns about the choice and use of source data on the other hand, and provides concrete examples for discrepancies and problems that can arise from such discrepancies.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2011/14)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2011/15)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Brazil, Morocco and South Africa on concerns about indicators released by United Nations agencies (E/CN.3/2011/16)

(k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. This report provides an overview of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which were adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994. Building on the 2004 global review, the report assesses recent developments and challenges to the implementation of these Fundamental Principles and seeks guidance from the Commission on how to better implement them.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/17)

(l) Statistical capacity-building

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building. This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Statistics Division to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity. In particular, work is described within the frameworks of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, the project to improve the collation, availability and dissemination of Millennium Development Goal data, the development accounts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistics Division's regular programme of technical cooperation. The Commission is invited to share its views on the Division's capacity-building programme.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, a report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. The report outlines efforts to promote the use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment for development progress, particularly through support to countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics, through advocacy and by encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2011/18)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (E/CN.3/2011/19)

(m) Regional statistical development in Western Asia

The Commission will have before it a report on regional statistical development in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The report summarizes the challenges and priorities of official statistics in the region in general and with respect to particular subject-matter areas. The report further discusses challenges of regional coordination of statistical activities. One of the main issues addressed is the consistency of data published by national statistical offices and data published by international organizations. An overview assessment of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics is also included in the paper. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposals for the way forward.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on regional statistical development in Western Asia (E/CN.3/2011/20)

4. Items for information

(a) Population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses. The report contains a description of activities undertaken in response to the recommendation made by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in regard to the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The activities include the conduct of seminars and training workshops; dissemination of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2* and supplement handbooks and technical reports; upgrading and dissemination of the software package, "CensusInfo", to help countries disseminate census data; as well as maintaining a census resource centre. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2011/21)

(b) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics. The report provides a description of activities as a follow-up to the report submitted to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session. The report focuses on the activities accomplished to date, the future programme of work and governance issues such as membership of the Group and the schedule of meetings. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Heath Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/22)

(c) Education statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics. The report provides information regarding the establishment and mandate of an intersecretariat working group on education statistics to improve coordination and maintain international standards. The report also includes updated information on global consultations on the proposed revisions to the International Standard Classification of Education and the process for its adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in October 2011. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2011/23)

(d) Agricultural statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics presenting the progress made in the development of the implementation plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, endorsed by the Commission at its forty-first session. The implementation plan adopts a regional approach to take account of the different level of statistical development between regions as well as to ensure ownership by regional institutions. A comprehensive technical assistance programme, an articulated training programme and a targeted research agenda have been developed. A governance framework with coordinating structures at the global, regional and national levels is also proposed and the plan outlines a comprehensive strategy for the mobilization of resources and technical support from developed countries, the donor community and international organizations that provide technical assistance. The implementation plan also provides the framework for the country assessment that will be used as a basis to begin the implementation at the national level. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2011/24)

(e) Business registers

The Commission will have before it the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers summarizing recent developments and planned activities of the Wiesbaden Group. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2011/25)

(f) Tourism statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Tourism Organization summarizing the activities it has carried out in response to the decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session in the area of tourism statistics. In particular, the report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the World Tourism Organization in cooperation with other international organizations to develop a compilation guide for the International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2011/26)

(g) Price statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics summarizing recent developments and planned activities. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/27)

(h) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics. The Statistical Commission at its forty-first session had endorsed the programme of work for the revision of *A Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* (United Nations, 1984). The report summarizes progress made in the revision process, including the establishment of the Expert Group on the Revision of the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the main results of the first meeting of the Expert Group, and presents a detailed timetable with outputs and responsibilities for 2011. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2011/28)

(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it a report that summarizes the main conclusions of the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 22 February 2010 and in Vienna from

1 to 3 September 2010 respectively. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2011/29)

(j) Inventory of global statistical standards

The Commission will have before it a progress report by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its work to create an inventory of global statistical standards, based on the model that had been created by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on the inventory of global statistical standards (E/CN.3/2011/30)

(k) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it the progress report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange summarizing recent developments and planned activities concerning this initiative. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2011/31)

(l) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and the Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions of the General Assembly, the Council or of other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken so far and those suggested to be taken. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2011/32)

(m) National quality assurance frameworks

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks. The report summarizes the activities and discussions carried out by the United Nations Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks in response to recommendations made by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session. The Expert Group conducted its first round of electronic discussions on country needs and priorities vis-à-vis the development and implementation of a national framework, and opinions on the proposals for a generic national quality assurance framework template that had been introduced at the forty-first session. The report also provides an update on the establishment by the Statistics Division of a designated website to facilitate the Expert Group's work and to contain a comprehensive inventory of countries' and international organizations' quality work. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2011/33)

(n) Global geospatial information management

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management. The report provides an update on recent activities, outlines the findings of the Second Preparatory Meeting, held in New York in May 2010, and briefs the Commission on the decision of the Economic and Social Council to include the issue of global geospatial information management in its agenda for 2011, to be considered on the basis of a report, which is currently being prepared and which contains a mission statement and terms of reference for the proposed Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management. Furthermore, the report informs the Commission about the planned activities for 2011, in particular the United Nations Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management to be held in Seoul in October 2011. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2011/34)

(o) Measurement of economic performance and social progress

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (France) on the measurement of economic performance and social progress, which presents the principal initiatives taken by France over the past year, in an effort to implement the recommendations of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. It describes both the main statistical projects undertaken and the publications produced, as well as the implications at the international level. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (France) on the measurement of economic performance and social progress (E/CN.3/2011/35)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-third session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2011-2014. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2011/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2011-2014 (E/CN.3/2011/36)

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-second session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its forty-second session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-second session (E/CN.3/2011/L.__)